

HA-394

Wilson's Bridge Site

c. 1868

East of present Deer Creek bridge on Darlington Rd. (MD 161)

Darlington vicinity

Private

Wilson's Bridge spanned the Deer Creek crossing of Darlington Road from about 1868 until about 1928, when it was removed and the present bridge was built. The covered bridge was a vital link in the road from Darlington and the upper part of Harford County with Hopewell Crossroads (Level), from which roads led to Havre de Grace, Bush, and Bel Air. The stone abutments remain on the north and south banks of Deer Creek.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Wilson's Bridge Site

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East of present Deer Creek bridge on Darlington Rd. (MD 161)

CITY, TOWN

Darlington

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED☒ Not applicable**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED ☒ not appl.☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER none**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

(See Description, Section 7)

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

40 So. Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

MD

Liber #: (See Description, Sec.
Folio #: 7)**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

c. 1970

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

MD

7 DESCRIPTION

94-384

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☐ GOOD ☒ RUINS
☐ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of Wilson's Bridge, a covered bridge built in the 19th century and removed in the late 1920's, consists of the stone abutments on the north and south banks of the creek about 50 feet east of the present roadway of Darlington Road (MD 161). The structures are heavily overgrown and not visible from the road or Deer Creek.

The north structure is owned by Oakie H. Bishop, Jr., 725 Darlington Rd., Darlington, MD 21034, phone: 836-3803; legal reference Liber 970/490. The south abutment is on the property of Alvin P. Lehnerd, 521 Darlington Rd., Darlington, MD 21034, phone: 836-2464; legal reference Liber 819/222.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
100-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1868

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wilson's Bridge spanned the Deer Creek crossing of Darlington Road from about 1868 until about 1928, when it was removed and the present bridge (HA-1578) was built. It was a vital link in the road from Darlington and the upper county to Hopewell Crossroads (Level), from which roads led to Havre de Grace, Bush, and Bel Air.

The old bridge became the property of Edward M. Allen, Jr., who contemplated the possible use of the structure as a tea house, according to a newspaper article of the time. (See attached copy.)

ADDENDUM: Samuel Mason, Jr., in Historical Sketches of Harford County, Maryland, states that the original covered bridge crossed the creek directly opposite the miller's house (HA-25). This bridge washed out in a freshet in 1865. The second bridge, the subject of this form, was built in 1868. It also was washed away in 1931.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mason, Samuel, Jr. Historical Sketches of Harford County, Maryland. Intelligencer Printing Co., Lancaster, PA., 1940.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Dept. of Planning and Zoning

DATE

September 1982

STREET & NUMBER

45 So. Main St.

TELEPHONE

(301) 838-6000, ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

MD 21014

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

HA-394
Wilson's Bridge Site

Section 7. DESCRIPTION

CORRECTION: The south bank abutments are almost destroyed. Only a small section of stone wall is visible near the creek bank. (Observed on March 15, 1983)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORMMD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:

Darlington Deer Creek Covered Bridge Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

COUNTY:

CODE

bridge abutments remain just east of the bridge
over Deer Creek south of Darlington
Darlington
Md
HARTFORD

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLICDistrict ☐
Site ☒Building ☐
Structure ☐Public ☒
Private ☐
Both ☐Public Acquisition: ☐
In Process ☐
Being Considered ☐Occupied ☐
Unoccupied ☒
Preservation work
in progress ☐Yes: ☐
Restricted ☐
Unrestricted ☒
No: ☐

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural ☐Government ☐Park ☐Transportation ☐Comments ☐Commercial ☐Industrial ☐Private Residence ☐Other (Specify) ☐Educational ☐Military ☐Religious ☐Scientific ☐

Abandoned bridge

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:

Harford County Department of Public Works

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Abino

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

STREET AND NUMBER:

HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

40 S. MAIN ST.

CITY OR TOWN:

BEL AIR

STATE:

MARYLAND

CODE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

Federal ☐State ☐County ☐Local ☐

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				Ruins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>of buttment</i>	
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Bridge removed</i>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)				(Check One)	
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Site only of the ^{covered} bridge over Deer Creek at the Wilson-Rigbie Mill.

A fording place remains at this location, and the bottom here the stream being shallow, all across at this point.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☐20th Century ☐15th Century ☐17th Century ☐19th Century ☐*Bridge Site**removed about 1928**(Ford - very early)*

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☐Historic ☐Industry ☐lasophy ☐Agriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☐Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Music ☐Transportation ☒

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The covered bridge was ~~to~~ removed and replaced when the road was straightened and made concrete to carry faster traffic between Darlington and the towns along the Bay. The iron bridge, two lane, presently runs above the site of an early ford, shallow and hard-bottomed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		JEAN S. EWING	
ORGANIZATION	MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	DATE	
STREET AND NUMBER:		50 STATE CIRCLE	
CITY OR TOWN:	ANNAPOLIS	STATE	MARYLAND
		CODE	

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

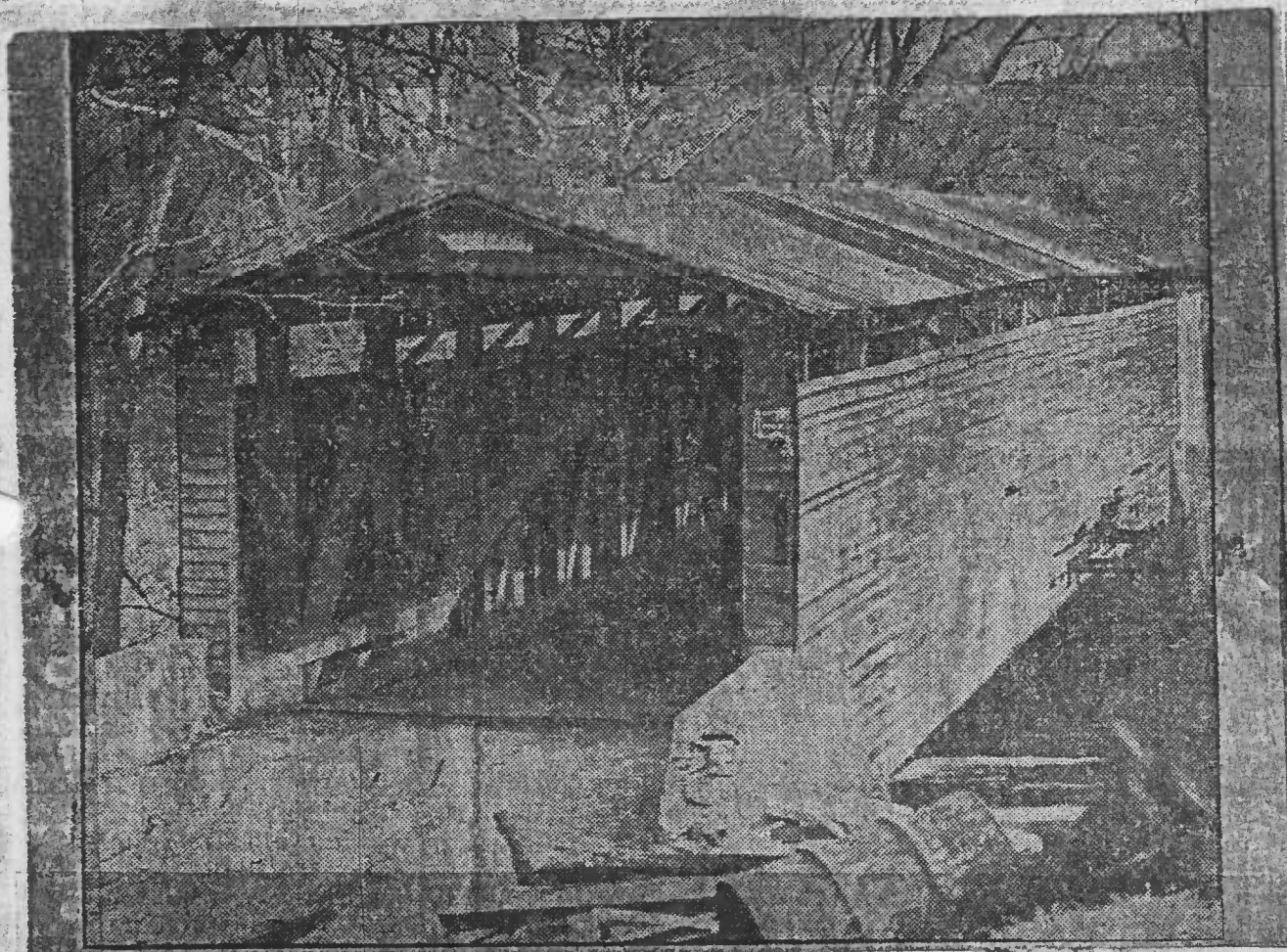
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

HA-394



Wilson's Bridge
Harford County
c. 1928 view
Bel Air Times

WILSON'S BRIDGE OVER DEER CREEK

Gilpin Times

Through the courtesy of The Baltimore Sun, we are enabled to reproduce above, a photograph of Wilson's Bridge, which spans Deer Creek South of Darlington. This bridge is on the road from Darlington to Havre de Grace, near the property of Colonel E. M. Allen and Mr. D. Gilpin Wilson. It has been shunted aside by the new road which has been built, and remains now but a relic. It is understood that it becomes the property of Colonel E. M. Allen. Many of his friends have suggested that it could very readily be utilized as an attractive tea house, as it is situated in a picturesque section, crosses Harford's most beautiful stream, and is located in the midst of a cultured people and fine farming land.

This bridge is one of the few old covered bridges left in Harford County. There is another one, shunted aside in the same way by engineers, which crosses Broad Creek, on the road from Dublin to Whiteford. The longest one of all, however, is still standing, and is that which crosses Deer Creek on the old road from Kalmia to Dublin, about seven hundred yards above the present stone bridge. This bridge is still part of the old highway, and has to be maintained by the County Commissioners. The agitation over the preservation

of old bridges was probably started by Henry Ford's endeavor to purchase an old covered bridge in New England. Recently there appeared a letter in The Sun Forum, written by Samuel Perkins III, stating that the Darlington Bridge and the Broad Creek Bridge, owing to the relocation of the roads, would probably be torn down, and that some effort should be made to preserve them as historical items. He states further

"such action would assure that future generations of Baltimoreans and their visitors would be informed by way of visual education of one of the things that were so essentially a factor in the lives of their forefathers. Why wait until such bridges are no more to be had, and then build a replica?"

The Maryland Historical Society plans to investigate, with a view of considering the possible purchase.

Colonel E. M. Allen, who received a deed to this property from the County Commissioners last August, states that the bridge was built about 1868 to replace another covered bridge which had been washed away in a very heavy flood, and that the first person to cross the bridge after its completion was Thomas King, who lived at the Jewett Place, and who

drove the carriage in which were Colonel Allen, his brother, Mr. J. A. G. Allen, their sister, Mrs. Edwin S. Worthington, and their grandmother, Mrs. Rachel Wilson.

Another covered bridge in Harford is located over Deer Creek, and known as "Smith's Bridge", on the road from Hickory to Ady. Mr. William H. Michael tells us this was built in 1849. This bridge is still in use, and probably will be used for many years.

Another covered bridge still in use, is that known as the "Red Bridge" on the road from Rocks to St. Paul's Church, not far from Stansbury's Old Mill. The bridge at Hooker's Mill, over Winter's Run, in the First District, is one of the oldest and longest in the County, is still in use, and will probably be in use for some years to come. Harford is thus supplied with six bridges at least, and it is possible there are others, and we would be glad if our readers would report any.

Two bridges in which Harford County may be considered as having half an interest are over the Little Gunpowder, constituting the border line between Baltimore and Harford Counties. These are found on the road from Baldwin to Upper Cross Roads.

Harford County Library ANOTHER BRIDGE

A correspondent advises us that in our story of covered bridges last week, we were in error in locating the Red Bridge near Stansbury's Mill. This Bridge is located on the road from Clermont Mills to Fawn Grove. She also advises us that a short distance above the Red Bridge is another covered bridge at Fife's Saw Mill, where Mr. Herbert now lives, on the road to St. Paul's Church on Deer Creek.

HA-394



WILSON'S MILL BRIDGE OVER THE DEER CREEK

HARFORD
tained it by december 1931, when The mill has at a dam and developed stone work on the
scriptions:

The original mill the spring and built by John A. caught fire and stone dwelling of David E. Wilson Church to Darlin a covered bridge er's house. This 1865 and the 10 years later further fate in 1931. (S

Deerdale Mill.—the north side of t ty of Mr. Oscar I race and also of t was located near around the base o seat near Death's t

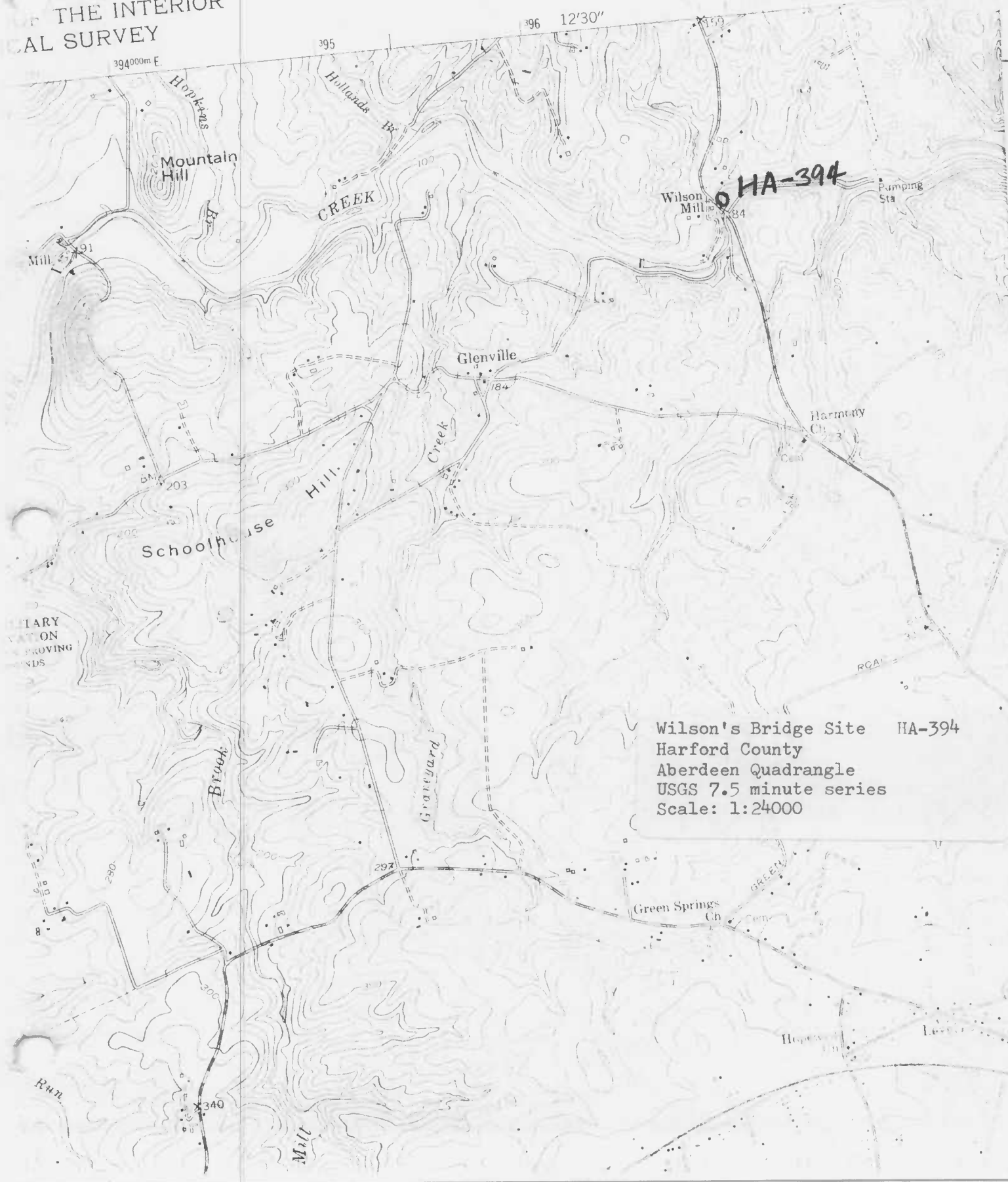
Nobles Mill.—Y mill on the Creek 1854, the timbers above the mill, tra long floor joists a for the saw carria

Wilson's Bridge
from Mason, Historical Sketches of
Harford County, Maryland, 1940
Date of photo unknown

HA-394
Darlington Deer Creek Covered Bridge, site 6
Harford County Dept. of Planning map
from aerial photos taken March, 1990



UNITED STATES
OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Wilson's Bridge Site HA-394
Harford County
Aberdeen Quadrangle
USGS 7.5 minute series
Scale: 1:24000



Wilson's Bridge Site

HA-394

Deer Creek

Harford County

Photo: Janet Davis

September 1982

North bank abutments

1/1